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Two Hotel Phone Operators Indicted In Destroying Records of Hoffa Calls

By James Clayton
Staff Reporter

Two telephone operators at the Woodner were charged yesterday with conspiring to obstruct investigations by a grand jury and by the McClellan Committee by falsifying and destroying telephone records.

The records involve calls coming from the suites occupied by Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa and his associates and Bakers Union President James Cross.

The two operators, Sally T. Hucks, 37, of 429 Bellevue drive, Falls Church, and Violet A. Davis, 53, of 27 Galveston place sw., denied the charges through their attorney, H. Clifford Alder.

The grand jury said that Mrs. Hucks, chief operator at

the Woodner, first told other operators in September, 1957, to make false records of some calls made by Teamster officials. Fourteen months later, it said, she told operators to falsify some of the records of calls from rooms occupied by Cross.

These tickets had been subpoenaed by the grand jury from the telephone company, the indictments said, but the company was unable to comply because the two women concealed them.

There was no indication from the grand jury as to who was called by the union officials or of any connection between the women and the unions. The Senate Committee has dipped deeply into the activities of both Cross and Hoffa and their unions in its effort to seek out wrongdoing.

Both Hoffa and Cross have been indicted in connection with the Committee's work but both were acquitted when the cases went to trial.

The indictments against Mrs. Hucks and Mrs. Davis contain four counts, one of conspiracy to obstruct investigations, two of actually obstructing them, and one of impeding a grand jury. If convicted, the women face possible jail terms.

The grand jury, which began its work a year ago, is continuing its inquiry with the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to see if it can find additional conspirators.

Mrs. Hucks has been employed at the Woodner since 1956; Mrs. Davis since 1957.